

UNIT K: DRIVER ESSAY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Driver Essay Questions

Driver's Role and Responsibilities

1. School bus drivers play a vital role in today's school systems. The characteristics a bus driver should display include:
2. What are the requirements for a school bus driver?
3. What are the responsibilities of a school bus driver?
 - To employer
 - To supervisor
 - To fellow employees
 - To students
 - To parents
 - To "Yourself"
4. Four things for a driver to remember at all times are:
5. A driver can create a positive image by:

Passenger Conduct

1. Students need to know how to control their actions. The school bus driver can promote self-discipline and provide group direction for passengers by:
2. Instructions that should be given to students riding a bus include:
3. Common sense rules for bus drivers:
4. Unacceptable student actions or behavior include:

Driving Fundamentals

1. There are four types of school buses. List each type and a definition for each.
2. What steps should a bus driver follow before starting the bus?
3. What are the steps in stopping a bus with a manual transmission?
4. What procedures should be followed when making a right turn?
5. Tragedies can be avoided if proper safety procedures are followed when crossing railroad tracks. Remember to stop, look, and listen. When you have done this, the steps to proceed are:
6. School buses should be operated within the posted speed limits. Describe the legal speed limits of the school bus.
7. School bus drivers must drive under many conditions, including driving on rural highways, night driving, and expressway driving. Describe things that drivers must remember when driving in these conditions.
8. Name the rule for loading and unloading and backing a school bus.
9. If an oncoming vehicle fails to dim its headlights at night, what should a driver do?
10. Define perception distance.
11. Define reaction distance.
12. Define braking distance.

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Loading and Unloading Passengers

1. What decision must a bus driver make if an emergency vehicle approaches?
2. What is the procedure for stopping and unloading?
3. What is the procedure for loading a bus?
4. What is the circuit interrupt feature?

Accidents and Emergencies

1. What is the procedure for using a fire extinguisher?
2. List four potential school bus crash situations.
3. List the five types of evacuations.

Detecting Hazards

1. What measures should a bus driver take when driving in fog?
2. What cautions should you take during flooding conditions?
3. List the four "musts" for driving in bad weather and road conditions.
4. What measures do you take if experiencing a stuck accelerator pedal?
5. What measures should you take if experiencing a partial or total loss of hydraulic brakes?
6. What can cause a loss of traction?
7. What is a compression point?
8. What is S.I.P.D.E?

Transit buses

1. Compare dimensions of a 78 passenger (Type D) transit bus with a
 - 64 passenger (Type C) conventional bus.
 - 78 passenger (Type D) - Transit
 - 64 passenger (Type C) - Conventional
2. List two important cautions to remember when stopping a transit bus.
3. Explain how effective mirror usage is especially important in a transit bus.
4. What is the main safety feature at the front of a transit bus?

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Answers

Drivers Role and Responsibility

1. Responsible, able to gain skills and knowledge necessary to safely operate a school bus, positive attitude, alert, good judgment, patience, understanding, even tempered, etc.
2. Certificate signed by applicant and a Virginia physician, records from DMV showing clean of drugs the prior 5 years, statement by 2 community scholars (fine upstanding citizens), exhibit proper license, at least 18 years old.
3.
 - A. Turn in reports, work with administrators, follow School Board policies
 - B. Accept responsibility, accepts authority, show enthusiasm, communicate openly, complete all assignments
 - C. Assist new drivers, courteous, assist others checking lights and reporting procedures, avoid criticizing others
 - D. Follow designated schedule, safe, clean bus, consistent with students, courteous, fair
 - E. Calm and professional, be on schedule, work with parents to improve student behavior, courteous, cooperative, respectful
 - F. Get adequate rest and monitor health conditions
4. Courteous, communicate effectively, positive attitude, and think
5. Being responsible, a team player, being positive, and courteous

Passenger Conduct

1. Friendly, positive, and concerned attitude towards students, informing them of rules and regulations and why they exist, fair with rules, respectful, presenting yourself as one whom also follows rules.
2. Load and unload in a reasonable manner, students should be reasonably quiet and not distract the driver, may assign seats, seated while bus is in motion, not damage bus, no body parts outside windows, no littering, etc.
3. Courteous, control temper, calm, responsible, make aware of group safety, firm, fair, interested in students, establish standards of behavior for yourself, never argue, never punish the whole group for an individual's behavior, never put a child off the bus.
4. Loud and abusive language, fighting and other acts of violence, pushing, shoving, throwing objects, possession of tobacco or alcohol or weapons, sexual harassment, not staying seated, etc.

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Driving Fundamentals

1.
 - a. Type A – a van conversion or bus constructed utilizing a cutaway front-section vehicle with a left side driver’s door.
 - b. Type B – Bus constructed utilizing a stripped chassis with the entrance door behind the front wheels.
 - c. Type C – Constructed utilizing a chassis with a hood and front fender assembly and the entrance door is behind the front wheels.
 - d. Type D – Constructed utilizing a stripped chassis and the entrance door is ahead of the front wheels.
2. Adjust the driver’s seat for pedals and other controls, adjust mirrors, fasten safety belt, set parking break, transmission in neutral, start engine, check gauges.
3. Stopping in a low gear, release accelerator, apply brakes gradually, depress clutch, reduce brake pressure slightly, shift gear into neutral, release clutch and remove foot from the pedal. Stopping in cruising gear, release accelerator and depress brake pedal, downshift to next lower gear, reduce brake pressure slightly, shift gear selector into neutral, release clutch and remove foot from pedal.
4. Check traffic, give signal, move to far right-hand lane, reduce speed to 10 mph or less, allow space to avoid curbs or striking a vehicle, check for pedestrians, turn wide to complete the turn instead of turning wide at the beginning of the turn, never change gears while turning, deactivate your signal after completing the turn.
5. Tap brakes to warn other drivers, activate 4-way hazard lights, stop within 15 and 50 feet, put bus in a gear that will prevent stalling, have children quiet, open door and window, turn off all warning lights, look and listen, when it is safe turn off 4-way hazard lights and close door and proceed across tracks.
6. The maximum speed limit for school buses shall be 45 miles per hour or the minimum speed allowable, whichever is greater, on any highway where the maximum speed limit is 55 miles per hour or less, and 60 miles per hour on all interstate highways and on other highways where the maximum speed limit is more than 55 miles per hour.
7. Decrease speed, use caution, watch for narrow roads with poor shoulders in rural areas, extreme congestion and intersections in urban areas, increase distance between yourself and other vehicles, stay in proper lane, as darkness falls use lights and watch for sudden appearances of dark objects, etc.
8. Load before backing and back before unloading.
9. Decelerate, keep headlights on low beam, avoid looking directly at vehicles bright lights, focus eyes on the right side of the roadway beyond the oncoming vehicle.

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10. Distance the vehicle goes from the time your eyes see a problem to the time your brain knows it.
11. Distance traveled from the time your brain tells your foot to move from the accelerator until your foot pushes the brake.
12. Distance it takes to stop once the brakes are applied.

Loading and Unloading Passengers

1. Cautiously and quickly move onto the right shoulder or curb lane of the roadway and stop.
2.
 - A. Slow down and scan environment
 - B. Activate warning lights
 - C. Stop in right lane
 - D. Transmission in neutral
 - E. Check traffic in all directions and discharge pupils
 - F. Signal to students crossing in front when safe
 - G. Count students
 - H. Deactivate warning lights, check danger zone area around bus, continue
3.
 - A. Proceed to right lane
 - B. Activate warning lights
 - C. Scan environment
 - D. Stop bus safe distance from students
 - E. Count students and make eye contact
 - F. Transmission in neutral
 - G. Open front door to board students
 - H. After students are seated, close door and proceed
4. Switch in bus available when loading or unloading at school where space does not permit the extension of the traffic warning sign and the crossing control arm.

Accidents and Emergencies

1. Remove from bracket, stand upwind from burning material, break seal on extinguisher, hold in upright position, point nozzle toward base of fire, squeeze lever and continue as needed.

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2. During loading and unloading, driver inattention, driver's inability to control the vehicle, driver's inability to maneuver around objects or people, improperly adjusted mirrors, improper backing, etc.

3. Leaving thru passenger door, rear emergency door, riders in front half leaving thru front and rear portion leaving thru rear, thru side exit, and thru roof hatch.

Detecting Hazards

1. Slow down, use caution, activate clearance lights and use low beam headlights, use windshield wipers, increase following distance, if extremely dense then park.

2. Try to keep brakes dry by lightly braking while driving through standing water, never drive through standing water high enough that the road is not visible.

3. Must be able to see, stop, turn, and control the vehicle.

4. Transmission in neutral, apply brakes and park ASAP, once parked push accelerator hard 2 or 3 times or attempt to pull up with your foot, if it remains stuck turn engine off.

5. Pump the brake pedal and sound the horn and flash the head lights, downshift transmission as low as possible, if necessary apply parking brake gradually, select a path for leaving the roadway.

6. Poor tire maintenance, excessive acceleration in curves, excessive steering in curves, panic braking, too much speed on water covered surface, slippery roadways.

7. Point at which the roadway narrows representing a potential source of conflict.

8. Defensive driver system standing for search, identify, predict, decide, and execute.

Transit Buses

1. A 78 passenger (Type D) transit bus is 36 feet 8 inches long. The wheelbase is 238 inches, and the turning radius is approximately 35 feet 2 inches. The 64 passenger (Type C) conventional bus is 29 feet 2 inches long. The wheelbase is 252 inches and the turning radius is 35 feet.

2. Brake pedal is much closer to accelerator, and it takes longer to come to a complete stop

3. Check mirrors continuously to avoid drifting off the right side of the road, plus visibility is poor in the back

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4. Byproduct of no hood and larger windshield greatly increases visibility so the driver can safely see students crossing in front of the bus.